

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for grading, encapsulating and commoditizing objects thereby making the objects trade ready, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) grading an object based upon a predetermined grading scale and generating a grade indicator for the object;
 - b) associating the grade indicator with the object in a substantially permanent manner by encapsulating the object and a visual representation of the grade indicator in a tamper-evident holder; and
 - c) commoditizing the object by generating relevant textual trade data for the object and storing the relevant textual trade data in a database in a form for use in generating a trade listing for the object.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 including performing said steps a) through c) for a plurality of objects and providing access to the relevant textual trade data in the database to sellers to generate trade listings for the objects.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 including providing access to the trade listings to the sellers and to buyers within an online peer-to-peer trading environment.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 2 including assigning a unique identifying indicia to each of the objects and associating the assigned unique identifying indicia with the corresponding one of the objects encapsulated in the holder in a substantially permanent manner.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein for each of the objects said step c) further includes printing the assigned associated unique identifying indicia onto a label and securing the printed label within the tamper-evident holder thereby providing a substantially permanent identifying indicia for the object.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 4 including a step of connecting the database to a host computer, connecting a remote terminal to the host computer, sending a selected one of the unique identifying indicia from the remote terminal to the host computer and retrieving from the database at the remote terminal the relevant textual trade data for the one of the objects associated with the selected one of the unique identifying indicia.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 4 including a step of generating at least one image of each of the objects, digitizing the images for viewing, storing the digitized images in the database and assigning to each of the images stored in the database a corresponding one of the associated unique identifying indicia.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7 including a step of connecting the database to a host computer, connecting a remote terminal to the host computer, sending a selected one of the unique identifying indicia from the remote terminal to the host computer and retrieving from the database at the remote terminal each stored image for the one of the objects associated with the selected one of the unique identifying indicia.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein each of the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique certificate number, the unique certificate numbers having a predetermined format for retrieving the stored relevant textual trade data associated with the objects.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique URL, the unique URL's having a predetermined format for retrieving the stored relevant textual trade data associated with the objects.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique machine readable bar code, the unique bar codes having a predetermined format for retrieving the stored relevant textual trade data associated with the objects.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 2 including a step of providing a marketing indicia for each of the objects, the marketing indicia being physically associated with the tamper-evident holders encapsulating the objects, the marketing indicia being visibly conspicuous thereby indicating that the objects are trade ready within an online peer-to-peer trading environment.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the objects are at least one of coins, stamps, trading cards, currency and documents.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 2 including generating trade listings from the stored relevant textual trade data in at least one trade enabling marketplace computer and providing access to the trade listings to the sellers and to buyers of the objects through computers connected to the marketplace computer.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the objects are coins and the stored relevant textual trade data is at least one of a plurality of item specific attributes associated with the coins, the item specific attributes including a certificate number, a year of mintage indicator, a Mint branch indicator, a denomination indicator, a coin type designation, a coin grade indicator, and a coin grading firm identifier.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the objects are coins and including assigning a unique identifying indicia to each of the coins, associating the assigned unique identifying indicia with the corresponding one of the coins encapsulated in the holder in a substantially permanent manner, and retrieving the stored relevant textual trade data from the database utilizing the assigned unique identifying indicia associated with each of the coins.

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59. (New) A method for grading, encapsulating and commoditizing objects thereby providing trade ready graded encapsulated objects, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) grading an object based on a predetermined grading scale and generating a grade indicator for the object;
- b) storing relevant data representing the object in a database, the stored relevant data including the grade indicator for the object;
- c) associating the grade indicator with the object in a substantially permanent manner by encapsulating the object and a visual representation of the grade indicator in a tamper-evident holder;
- d) assigning a unique identifying indicia to the object and associating the assigned unique identifying indicia with the object in a substantially permanent manner by encapsulating the object and a visual representation of the assigned unique identifying indicia in the tamper-evident holder;
- e) generating at least one image of the object, the image having characteristics permitting details of the object upon which the object was graded to be viewed on a video display means, storing the image in the database and associating the unique identifying indicia assigned to the object with the stored image; and
- f) repeating steps a) through e) for a plurality of objects to generate a compilation of the stored images, whereby at least one image associated with one of the objects can be retrieved from the database by selecting the assigned associated unique identifying indicia and including retrieving from the database the stored relevant data representing the object associated with the selected assigned associated unique identifying indicia.

60. (New) The method according to claim 59 including the step of providing sellers of graded encapsulated objects with access to the stored relevant data to facilitate initiation of at least one trade listing for at least one of the objects.

61. (New) The method according to claim 60 wherein the initiation of the at least one trade listing is facilitated by using the assigned associated unique identifying indicia to access the stored relevant data.

62. (New) The method according to claim 61 including the step of providing relevant trade data to at least one online trade enabling facility wherein the trade enabling facility operates a network-based commerce system and the relevant trade data is used to facilitate the initiation of the trade listings for the objects being offered for sale by sellers having access to the network-based commerce system.

63. (New) The method according to claim 62 wherein the relevant trade data is provided to the trade enabling facility in a predetermined manner in advance of the initiation of the trade listing.

64. (New) The method according to claim 62 wherein the relevant trade data is provided to the trade enabling facility in a predetermined manner contemporaneous with the initiation of the trade listing.

65. (New) The method according to claim 62 wherein access to the relevant trade data is provided to the sellers in a predetermined manner contemporaneous with the initiation of the trade listing, thereby facilitating at least partially the initiation of the at least one trade listing in a streamlined manner.

66. (New) The method according to claim 59 wherein the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique certificate number, the unique certificate number having a predetermined format for retrieving at least one of the stored relevant data and the stored images.

67. (New) The method according to claim 59 wherein the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique URL, the unique URL having a predetermined format for retrieving at least one of the stored relevant data and the stored images.

68. (New) The method according to claim 59 wherein the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique machine readable barcode, the unique bar code having a predetermined format for retrieving at least one of the stored relevant data and the stored images.

69. (New) The method according to claim 59 wherein the object is at least one of a coin, a stamp, a trading card, currency, and a document.

70. (New) A method for grading, encapsulating and commoditizing coins thereby making the coins trade ready, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) grading a coin based upon a predetermined grading scale and generating a grade indicator for the coin;
 - b) assigning a unique identifying indicia to the coin and associating the assigned unique identifying indicia with the coin in a substantially permanent manner by encapsulating the coin and a visual representation of the assigned unique identifying indicia in a tamper-evident holder;
 - c) commoditizing the coin by generating relevant trade data representing the coin and storing the relevant trade data in a database, the stored relevant trade data including at least a grade indicator for the coin;
 - d) generating at least one image of the coin, the one image having characteristics permitting details of the coin upon which the coin was graded to be viewed on a video display means, storing the one image in a database and associating the unique identifying indicia assigned to the coin with the stored one image;
 - e) repeating steps a) through d) for a plurality of coins and providing at least one of direct access and indirect access to the stored relevant trade data to sellers of trade ready coins thereby enabling sellers to initiate the generation of trade listings within an online peer to peer network-based trading environment in a streamlined manner.

71. (New) The method according to claim 70 including the step of providing the relevant trade data to at least one trade enabling facility, wherein the trade enabling facility operates an online network-based commerce system and the relevant trade data is used by the sellers to facilitate the initiation of trade listings representing graded encapsulated coins being offered for sale on the network-based commerce system.

72. (New) The method according to claim 70 wherein the stored relevant trade data is at least one of a plurality of item specific attributes associated with the coins, the item specific attributes including a grade indicator, a certificate number, a year of mintage indicator, a mint branch indicator, a denomination indicator, a coin type designation, and a coin grading firm identifier.

73. (New) The method according to claim 70 including the steps of connecting the database to a host computer, connecting a remote terminal to the host computer, sending a selected one of the unique identifying indicia from the remote terminal to the host computer and retrieving from the database for viewing at the remote terminal the relevant trade data representing the coin associated with the selected one unique identifying indicia.

74. (New) The method according to claim 70 including the steps of connecting the database to a host computer, connecting a remote terminal to the host computer, sending a selected one of the unique identifying indicia from the remote terminal to the host computer and retrieving from the database for viewing at the remote terminal the image representing the coin associated with the selected one unique identifying indicia.

75. (New) A method for grading and encapsulating coins having retrievable stored data comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting a coin based upon a predetermined selection criteria;
- (b) grading a coin based on a predetermined grading scale and generating a grade indicator for the coin;
- (c) assigning a unique identifying indicia to the coin;
- (d) generating relevant data representing the coin and storing the relevant data in a database, the stored relevant data including at least a grade indicator for the coin;
- (e) generating at least one image of the coin, the image having characteristics permitting details of the coin upon which the coin was graded to be viewed on a video display means;
- (f) storing the image in a database and associating the unique identifying indicia assigned to the coin with the stored image;
- (g) providing a substantially planar upper enclosure element for receiving at least partially a coin retaining insert;
- (h) providing a substantially planar lower enclosure for receiving at least partially a coin retaining insert;
- (i) providing a coin retaining insert adapted for close fitting between the upper and the lower enclosure element, the coin retaining insert having an appropriately dimensioned aperture for confining the coin;
- (j) mounting the coin within the aperture of the coin retaining insert;
- (k) confining the insert including the coin between the upper and lower enclosure elements;
- (l) sealing the enclosure elements using sonic welding means, thereby providing a substantially permanent tamper-evident holder for the graded coin;
- (m) associating the assigned unique identifying indicia with the coin in a substantially permanent manner by confining a visual representation of the assigned unique identifying indicia in the tamper-evident holder; and
- (n) repeating steps a) through m) for a plurality of coins to generate a plurality of images for the coins whereby at least one corresponding image associated with the selected one coin can be retrieved from a database by selecting the assigned

associated unique identifying indicia, and including retrieving from the database stored relevant data for the coin associated with the selected unique identifying indicia.

76. (New) The method according to claim 75 wherein step m) is performed by printing the assigned associated unique identifying indicia onto a label and encapsulating the coin and the printed label within a tamper-evident holder, thereby providing a substantially permanent unique identifying indicia for the coin in the holder.

77. (New) The method according to claim 75 wherein the stored data associated with the coins is stored relevant textual trade data.

78. (New) The method according to claim 75 wherein the stored relevant data is at least one of a plurality of item specific attributes associated with the coins, the item specific attributes including a grade indicator, a certificate number, a year of mintage indicator, a mint branch indicator, a denomination indicator, a coin type designation, and a coin grading firm identifier.